



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Mundy *et al.*
Serial No. : 09/805,840
Filed : March 13, 2001
Title : METHODS OF TREATING MULTIPLE MYELOMA AND MYELOMA-INDUCED BONE RESORPTION USING INTEGRIN ANTAGONISTS

Art Unit : 1644
Examiner : Maher M. Haddad
Conf. No. : 4957

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 19, 2006

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 31, 32, 40, and 42-48 are pending in the application. In reply to the Office Action dated May 19, 2006, Applicants submit the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 31, 32, 40 and 42-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,692,742 (hereafter "Nakamura"; IDS Ref. No. AD) in view of Masellis-Smith *et al.* (IDS Ref. No. AJ) or Lokhorst *et al.* (Blood 84:2269-2277, 1994, of record). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The position of the Office appears to rely on the following. Nakamura describes a combination of melphalan and an anti-IL-6 receptor antibody to treat multiple myeloma (MM). Masellis-Smith *et al.* teaches that anti-VLA4 antibodies that bind $\alpha_4\beta_7$ inhibited MM blood B cell interactions with bone marrow fibroblasts *in vitro*. Lokhorst *et al.* teaches that anti-VLA-4 antibodies inhibited binding of purified myeloma cells to long term bone marrow cultures (LTBMC) from patients with multiple myeloma. Lokhorst *et al.* also teaches that inhibition of

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